



The VICTIM SUPPORT TEAM

The Buzz on Buzzy Katzer

By Haley Lampman

Mark “Buzzy” Katzer has been a VST institution for many years. Most volunteers have had the pleasure of chatting with him at Southwest or passing the time with one of the many crossword puzzles he so graciously prints. The amazing thing about Buzzy is that he takes time out of his day to pull reports for us to follow up on. There has been many a weekend that VST would have been very slow if it weren’t for his referrals! When asked to relay some stories from his career he remembered the names of folks he served over 30 years ago. I think that shows a profound sense of dedication to the citizens of Seattle and a great respect for his position as an Officer. Read below to learn more about this awesome Officer!

Haley: Tell us a bit about your career with SPD.

Buzzy: I came into the department in May of 1969 as a 19 year old Cadet. Here with a couple of thoughts and an irony about the Cadet program...The program was designed for young men [who were] not yet old enough to become Officers. The test for Cadet was the same test to become an Officer, except during the oral board testing there was no mention of using deadly force, on account of Cadets were not to be armed. Here is the irony...for the most part, Cadets did exactly what I now find myself doing, answering the phone and doing paperwork type things. I had a pretty remarkable Cadet career [though]. I was the first Cadet to get assigned to the Harbor Unit, where I got to go out on patrol boats. But most significantly, my last six months of being a

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Cadet I worked undercover in the narcotics unit, making buys and such. In fact, I was the one of the first two Cadets to do so.

I became an Officer in March of 1971. I went through the academy and started at the old Georgetown Precinct working second watch. I pretty much spent the next rest of my career assigned to patrol, although I had a stint in Street Vice for about nine months, and on several occasions I was temporarily assigned to other detective units doing undercover or plainclothes work. From about 1977 on most all my time was spent on third watch hours, thus I am an ingrained night-owl. Most all of that time was spent working the South Precinct area, regardless of the venue or shift. And when the SW Precinct opened up, I think in 2002 or so, I became the third watch Desk Officer, back to doing pretty much what I did when I was 19yrs old...there's that irony again!

Haley: Why did you become an officer?

Buzzy: Essentially I joined the Police Department because I wanted to be a ‘good guy’. I wanted to help people. I also embarked on a campaign to make the people I met during the course of my duties [see] me as a human being, as opposed to a robot, or “that so and so cop that wrote me a ticket”. I'm confident that I achieved that goal.

Haley: What has been one of the most memorable experiences from your career?

Buzzy: Here is a quick one...the era is late 70s-early 80's. I'm 3rd Watch out of Georgetown, working the flatlands. Right after I get out of roll call a call comes out of a disturbance on a bus. The bus is stopped about three blocks from the precinct and there were two kids on it, one brandishing a knife. I pull up behind the bus [while] my back up, Toby, pulls up behind me. I walk in through the front door to talk to the driver. The driver points out the kids sitting near the mid-way door and I walk back towards them. Then I hear words from an older woman sitting on the back bench. She's sitting with [a] friend of hers. The woman says something like "Oh, that's Buzzy!! Everything is going to be okay." I look again and recognize her as the manager of the old Boeing Field Apartments. I'd been there on a few calls and I guess she was satisfied with my decisions. I'll never forget that moment.

Haley: When did you first hear about VST?

Buzzy: I learned of the VST program when it began. My first thoughts were of a positive nature. I met these people, mostly women in the beginning, and I was taken with the fact they were volunteering their time to help others. They were trying to do for free what I was trying to do for pay. From that time on I have tried to assist them as much as possible. I still feel that way, and I still do what I can.

Haley: What drives you to refer so many people to VST?

Buzzy: It is no trouble for me to do what I do to try to assist. The principal reason I make referrals is because I'm confident you folks have more resources, or at least information of that nature, than most of us Officers, so it seems logical to make these referrals.

The VST Staff wants to take this opportunity to thank Buzzy for all of his amazing support of the Victim Support Team and for his years of service to the City of Seattle!



Secure Communities

By Haley Lampman

In April of this year a program entitled Secure Communities was activated state wide. This program, started by the Bush administration and widely expanded under the Obama administration, "is a Department of Homeland Security (DHS) program designed to identify immigrants in U.S. jails who are deportable under immigration law."¹ Under this program all people booked into jail will have their fingerprints checked against an ICE database to determine their immigration status. Those who are found to be in the country illegally will be placed in an ICE hold and their status will be reviewed. After ICE reviews the person's status they may either be released or transferred to federal custody.

This program can and will affect victims of domestic violence in the City of Seattle. Victims whose abusers are undocumented might hesitate to call the police if they know about Secure Communities, especially if the abuser is the sole bread winner or is the mother or father of their children. Abusers might also use this program to instill fear in their undocumented victims.

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Safety planning with victims around this new program is critical. Educating yourself about this program will greatly increase your ability to affectively assist undocumented members of our community whether it is as a volunteer with VST or in any other parts of your life.

To learn more please visit these websites:

<http://immigrationpolicy.org/just-facts/secure-communities-fact-sheet>

<http://www.nwirp.org/howyoucanhelp/beanadvocate>



VAWA Update

By Amber Pierce

In 1994, Congress passed the landmark Violence Against Women Act (“VAWA”). VAWA acknowledges that domestic violence is a national crime and that federal laws are another tool to assist the state and local criminal justice system. Congress reauthorized VAWA funding in 2000 and 2005, but it lapsed when Congress was unable to pass modifications to the Act. Accordingly, the Act was not reauthorized in 2010, 2011. In early 2012, amendments to VAWA finally passed through the Senate Judiciary Committee, but failed to reach the House or Senate.

What follows is a brief synopsis of the 1994 VAWA, as well as the proposed amendments that may or may not be passed once the November election year is over.

What is VAWA?

It is a federal law that punishes perpetrators of domestic violence if they:

- cross state lines or enter or leave tribal land and physically injure an “intimate partner”;
- cross state lines to stalk or harass or to stalk or harass within the maritime or territorial lands of the United States; or

- cross state lines or enter or leave tribal land and violate a qualifying Protection Order.

VAWA also increased federal penalties for domestic violence and provided funding for groups and services that aid victims of domestic abuse.

Who is an “Intimate Partner”?

As currently enacted, an “intimate partner” is a spouse, a former spouse, a person who shares a child in common with the victim, or a person who cohabits or has cohabited with the victim.

What is the Penalty for Violating VAWA?

All the federal domestic violence crimes are felonies, and allow a maximum prison term of *five years to life*, depending on the seriousness of the bodily injury that the perpetrator caused. In federal court, the court *must* order restitution to pay for the victims losses, such as medical or psychological care, physical therapy, temporary housing, child care expenses, lost income, transportation, and attorneys’ fees and costs incurred from obtaining a Protective Order.

What Are a Victim's Federal Rights Under VAWA?

A victim in a VAWA case has the following rights:

- The right to be treated with fairness and with respect for the victim's dignity and privacy;
- The right to be reasonably protected from the accused offender;
- The right to be notified of court proceedings;
- The right to be present at all public Court proceedings related to the offense, unless the Court determines that testimony by the victim would be materially affected if the victim heard other testimony at trial;
- The right to confer with the attorney for the government (Department of Justice) in the case;
- The right to restitution; and
- The right to information about the conviction, sentencing, imprisonment and release of the offender.

What Are the Proposed "Controversial" Amendments to VAWA?

One version, proposed in early 2012, adds provisions that extend access to domestic violence programs to same-sex couples, gives Native American tribal courts more prosecution powers over domestic violence matters, and provides some illegal immigrants who have been battered to obtain temporary visas if they agree to cooperate with law enforcement. Another proposed version includes a refusal to agree on the new provisions, raising concerns about accounting for the

effectiveness of the federal grants it authorizes, and making federal grants to domestic violence organizations contingent on nondiscrimination against gay, lesbian, and transgender victims. Later this year, there will be more proposed amendments to the law. However, Congress is not likely to take any action until after the November 2012 election. In order to learn more about this issue you can visit:

<http://4vawa.org/>

Three easy ways to give...

- 1- Visit www.networkforgood.org for secure online donations. Search for: Seattle Police Foundation.



Make sure to designate "VICTIM SUPPORT TEAM" when prompted.

- 2- Please make check out to:
Seattle Police Foundation, Victim Support Team

Send your checks to:

**Victim Support Team, DV Unit
PO Box #34986
Seattle, WA 98124**

- 3- To donate old cell phones, clothes, or other goods please call (206)684-7721



Citations

¹ <http://immigrationpolicy.org/>